

REMARKS

Claims 1-17, 22-23, 25-32 and 34 are pending in the present application. Claims 1, 10, 14, 22 and 30 are independent claims. By this replay, claims 24 and 33 have been canceled.

The specification has been amended slightly to correct minor informalities and to improve form according to U.S. practice. These modifications do not add new matter to the disclosure.

Drawing Objection

Figures 6 and 7 have been objected to because of certain minor informalities. These minor informalities have been corrected as indicated in the replacement sheets of drawings attached hereto in accordance with the Examiner's suggestions. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of this drawing objection are respectfully requested.

Claim Objection

Claims 1, 10, 22, 30 and 31 have been objected to because of certain minor informalities. These claims have been corrected as suggested by the Examiner. Accordingly, this claim objection should be withdrawn.

Entry of Amendment

The Examiner is respectfully requested to enter this Amendment After Final Rejection, in that it raises no new issues but merely places the claims in a form more clearly patentable over the references of record. The claim amendments are made to overcome the claim objections. In the alternative, the Examiner is respectfully requested to enter this Amendment After Final Rejection in that it reduces the issues for appeal.

35 U.S.C. § 103 Rejection

Claims 1-12, 14-17, 22-28 and 30-34 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Fushima et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,088,307) in view of Tominaga. This rejection, insofar as it pertains to the presently pending claims, is respectfully traversed.

Regarding independent claim 1, the Examiner alleges that Fushima et al. discloses the feature of performing the track jump with inhibition of a PLL of a wobble signal and cites column 10, lines 30-51 of Fushima et al. to support his position. However, Fushima et al., including the cited portion, clearly discloses that the PLL of a wobble signal is performed even during the track jump. For instance, at column 10, lines 43-51, Fushima et al. states "when the optical head 32 is started or in a seek operation, the PLL circuit 55 operates normally

as well, generating the timing generation clock signal. In this way, during a period beginning from the start of the tracing of a track by the optical head 32 till a normal wobble signal is obtained, a reference clock signal generated by the reference crystal oscillator is supplied, allowing the PLL circuit 55 for the wobble clock signal 60 to always attain a stable operation.” Accordingly, in contrast to the Examiner’s allegation, Fushima et al. does not teach or suggest, *inter alia*:

performing the track jump with inhibition of a phase locked loop (PLL) of a wobble signal when the current location of the pickup head is the end of the header area

as recited in independent claim 1, and the similarly recited features of independent claims 10, 14, 22 and 30.

Furthermore, Tominaga does not overcome this deficiency of Fushima et al. since Tominaga is relied on for track jumping and is completely devoid of any disclosure for performing a PLL of a wobble signal, much less the inhibition of the PLL of a wobble signal during the track jump.

Therefore, even if the references were combinable, assuming *arguendo*, the combination of references would still fail to teach or suggest the above-noted features of independent claims 1, 10, 14, 22 and 30. Accordingly, these independent claims and their dependent claims (due to their dependency) are patentable over the applied references, and the rejection must be withdrawn.

Claims 13 and 29 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Fushima et al. in view of Tominaga as applied to claims 10 and 25 above, and further in view of Alon et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,210,726). This rejection, insofar as it pertains to the presently pending claims, is respectfully requested.

As discussed above, the combination of Fushima et al. and Tominaga does not teach or suggest the above-noted features recited in independent claims 10 and 25 from which claims 13 and 29 depend, respectively. Alon et al. does not overcome this deficiency in the combination of Fushima et al. and Tominaga since Alon et al. is merely relied on for an N-time consecutive track jump and is silent on performing the track jump with an inhibition of a PLL of a wobble signal when the header area ends/the current location of the pickup head is the end of the header area. Thus, the combination of references as applied by the Examiner does not teach or suggest the invention as recited in independent claims 10 and 25 and their dependent claims (due to their dependency). Accordingly, claims 10 and 25 and their dependent claims are patentable over the applied references, and the rejection must be withdrawn.

Conclusion

For the foregoing reasons and in view of the above clarifying

amendments, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to reconsider and withdraw all of the objections and rejections of record, and earnestly solicit an early issuance of a Notice of Allowance.

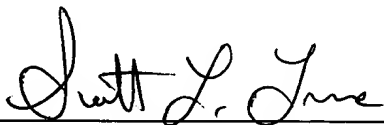
Should there be any outstanding matters which need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Esther H. Chong (Registration No. 40,953) at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

Applicant(s) respectfully petitions under the provisions of 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a) and 1.17 for a three-month extension of time in which to respond to the Examiner's Office Action. **The Extension of Time Fee in the amount of \$950.00 is being paid with the concurrent filing of a Notice of Appeal.**

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and further replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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Attachment: Two (2) Replacements Sheets of Drawings (Figs. 6 and 7)